

THE TRANSCRIPT.

ST. ALBANS.

Friday, August 5, 1864.

NATIONAL UNION TICKET.

For President,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
OF ILLINOIS.

For Vice President,

ANDREW JOHNSON,
OF TENNESSEE.

Presidential Election, November 8th, 1864.

UNION STATE TICKET.

For Governor,

JOHN GREGORY SMITH,
OF ST. ALBANS.

For Lieut. Governor,

PAUL DILLINGHAM,
OF WATERBURY.

For Treasurer,

JOHN B. PAGE,
OF RUTLAND.

FOR CONGRESS.

First District—FREDERICK E. WOOD-
BRIDGE, of Vergennes.Second District—JUSTIN S. MORRILL, of
Stratford.Third District—PORTER BAXTER, of Der-
by Line.

State Election, September 6th, 1864.

The Burlington Times in a recent article on substitute brokers, remarks that "the eager pursuit of this disreputable traffic in human flesh is getting to be a noisome stench in the nostrils of our townspeople. Our Square and the parts adjacent are fast growing to be little better than a slave mart. A vile combination of brokers, kidnappers and confidence men, whose lines of communication are perfect to Canada line, have succeeded in practicing systematic and shameful extortion upon the substitute, whose money they invariably steal, upon the patriotic citizen whose determination to put a man into the army makes him reluctantly submit to be severely gouged. The result of this is that the substitute gets no reward commensurate with the perils he pledges himself to confront, while the cheating, cozening broker gets not only the just due of the recruit, but also an enormous advance upon real value."

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.—The exercises of the sixtieth anniversary of the University of Vermont opened on Sunday afternoon with the Baccalaureate Sermon by the Rev. W. G. T. Shedd, D. D., of New York City. This discourse was "clear, earnest, thoughtful and practical." On Sunday evening the celebration of the Society for Religious Enquiry, took place and the Rev. Frederick D. Huntington, D. D., of Boston, pronounced a discourse which the *Free Press* pronounced to be "able, scholarly and interesting."

On Tuesday the exercises were an oration by Rev. Dr. Hitchcock of New York, before the Phi Beta Kappa, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and the obituary discourses on the late President Wheeler by Dr. Tracy of Boston, and on the late President Pense by Rev. Dr. Shedd, of New York, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

On Commencement Day thirteen graduated, and the honorary degree of D. D. was conferred on the Rev. James Dougherty of Johnson, Rev. John F. Bigelow of Keeseville, Rev. J. E. Dwell of California, and Rev. J. B. Wentworth of Buffalo.

Judge Aldis, of St. Albans, presided at the Corporation Dinner, and excellent off-hand speeches were made by Judge Aldis, John S. Adams, Prof. N. G. Clark, Rev. Dr. Shedd, Prof. Harkness, and Rev. C. C. Torrey.

President Torrey, by reason of ill health, has tendered his resignation.

THE NEW LOAN.—The new loan seems to meet with excellent success at the start. The subscriptions on the first day in the city of New York, amounted to over two and a half millions. At the Treasury Office alone they were \$1,837,200, and the responses from various banks were equally gratifying. As far as the first day's business could be taken as a guarantee for success, there was a strong disposition shown among capitalists, to back the opinion with the hard cash.

The latest foreign intelligence was to the effect that there was an increasing demand for our five-twenty bonds on the continent of Europe. Even the *London Times* was compelled to notice the fact, although not very graciously. Taken with the success of our loan at home, it is surely a most encouraging sign.

In view of the fact that Gen. Grant has found very few negroes in his recent movements, and that Gen. Sherman reports but few able-bodied negro men in the country occupied by him, as well as information from other sources, it is believed that operations under the order allowing recruiting in the rebel States, will not yield men in great numbers.

Commencement at Dartmouth was July 21. The graduating class numbered 39. Among the honorary

degrees conferred was that of LL. D. upon Ex-President Lord and Rev. Benjamin Labaree, D. D., of Middlebury College. \$50,000 has been raised to increase the endowment of the college.

Gen. J. B. McPherson, who was killed before Atlanta, was one of the best officers of our army. He was a graduate of West Point, from Ohio in 1853, and was one of the first in his class. Among his classmates was Hood, the rebel general who commanded the opposing forces on the day he fell.

THE MENDELSSOHN CONCERT.—In reference to the approaching concert by the Mendelssohn Quintette Club at St. Albans, August 4th, we heartily adopt the language of the *Burlington Free Press*, as follows:

"Our music-loving public have learned in past years to expect in the annual concert of the Mendelssohn Quintette Club, one of the most enjoyable treats of the year. We hear no music of its kind, in this quarter, which approaches theirs, as they are heard with increased satisfaction at each successive appearance. A glance at the programme will show that the concert of this year is not likely to be inferior to those of former years."

We are glad to see that Miss Ryan, whose voice so delighted the large audience last summer, will sing again at the coming concert.

For those who have never heard the Club we might quote Dwight's *Journal of Music*, which in a late number, spoke of their concerts in Boston, as among the most attractive and noticeable of the entertainments of the past season in that city; but it can hardly be necessary. Everybody knows what the Mendelssohn Quintette Club is, and a large and brilliant audience will greet them.

The Boston Transcript says that fresh water has been supplied at two dollars and a half a barrel for the past ten days at one of the fashionable watering places in the vicinity of Boston. At that rate, what would be the probable rate of other potables near the modern Athens?

The Popular Loan and the Public Duty.

Our country is calling for money, which, if not the motive power of its machinery, is certainly its lubricator, without which it would be disastrous to go on.

Do people realize that it is their duty to take the loan? Do they not rather stop and consider whether these bonds are the best thing in the way of an investment?

It is said that many, especially country people, are hoarding greenbacks; cannot they be induced to hoard bonds instead, which have the same security and pay them interest besides.

Mass meetings should be held in cities and towns to bring this matter strongly before the people and explain not only its importance to their government, but its importance to themselves (for unfortunately we are not all paragons of patriotism), but many can only be moved by an appeal to their self-interest.

Some persons croak about repudiation when you urge them to take government securities, and say they prefer to put their money in savings banks or invest in good dividend paying stock companies, ignorant that much of the funds of these institutions is probably invested in these very government bonds.

The Government must have money, and there are but two legitimate ways of raising it, viz: by loans and by taxation, and if you do not wish an additional turn given to the tax screws bring out a portion of your surplus funds and loan it to the government; and besides you will then have done something towards preventing the further inflation of prices which you so often deplore.

Patriotism and self-interest alike are calling loudly upon you; surely you cannot be entirely deaf to such an appeal.

H. H. R.

HIGH PRICES.—The N. Y. Commercial Advertiser publishes statistics showing that prices have advanced more within the last three years in this country than they did in Great Britain during the twenty years of war that ended in 1815. A comparison of prices of fifteen leading articles (all but three of home production), shows that the greatest part of this advance has been within the last four months, and their rates are higher in proportion than that of gold, even; so that gold is exported instead of produced. The reason is said to be that speculators have this season abandoned stocks and gone to speculating in necessities of life to a frightful extent; and the amount invested by them in these articles, which are held for higher prices, is said to be enormous. Very many of them will be ruined by their operations, beyond a doubt. The money-market has been very tight for the past few days, and money as hard to get as even in 1857—two per cent. a month being about the lowest, and 1 per cent. a month paid in some cases. In consequence, speculators find it necessary to sell, and on Wednesday there was quite a fall in many kinds of produce in the cities. Flour went down 50 cents per barrel, and Pork from \$4.86. The banks now refuse to discount notes based on produce, and a very little additional check will bring on a terrible crash.

Internal Revenue.

THE NEW TAX LAW.

The following are the stamp duties imposed by the new tax-bill. The provisions for affixing and cancelling stamps are the same as before.

This was required on the first day of August, and as it will be needed every day for most of our subscribers, it might be advisable to preserve it for reference.

STAMP DUTIES.

Agreement or contract other than those specified in this schedule, any appraisal of value or damage, or for any other purpose; for every sheet or piece of paper upon which either of the same shall be written—5 cents.

Bank check, draft or order for the payment of money—2 cents.

Bill of exchange (inland), draft or order for the payment of any sum of money, not exceeding one hundred dollars, otherwise than at sight, or demand, or any promissory note, (except bank notes issued for circulation and checks made and intended to be forthwith presented which shall be presented to a bank or banker for payment); or any memorandum, check, receipt or other written or printed evidence of an amount of money to be paid on demand or at a time designated, for a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars—5 cents; for every additional one hundred dollars or fractional part in excess of one hundred dollars—5 cents.

Bill of exchange—(foreign), drawn in sets of three or more, for every bill of each set, where the sum made payable shall not exceed \$100, or the equivalent thereof, in any foreign currency in which such bills may be expressed—2 cents; for every additional \$100 or fractional part thereof in excess of \$100—3 cents.

Bill of lading or receipt, other than charter party, for any goods, &c., exported to a foreign port—10 cents.

Bonds of indemnity—where the penalty is \$1000 or less—50 cents; where the penalty exceeds \$1000, for every additional \$1000, or fractional part in excess of \$1000—25 cents.

Bonds of any description, other than such as may be required in legal proceedings, or used in connection with mortgage deeds, and such as are not otherwise charged—25 cents.

Certificate of stock—25 cents.

Certificate of profits of an incorporated company for a sum not less than \$10 nor more than \$50—10 cents; exceeding \$50—25 cents.

Certificate of report, if for a sum not exceeding \$100—1 cent; for a sum exceeding \$100—2 cents.

Certificate of any other description—5 cents.

Contract issued by brokers, &c.—10 cents.

Conveyance, when the value exceeds \$100 and does not exceed \$500—50 cents; exceeding \$500 and not exceeding \$1000—\$1; exceeding \$1000 and not exceeding \$2,500—\$2; exceeding \$2,500 and not exceeding \$5,000—\$5; exceeding \$5,000 and not exceeding \$10,000—\$10; exceeding \$10,000 and not exceeding \$20,000—\$20; for every additional \$10,000, or fractional part in excess of \$20,000—\$20.

Insurance—Life, when the amount insured shall not exceed \$1000—25 cents; exceeding \$1000 and not exceeding \$5000—50 cents; exceeding \$5000—\$1; Insurance (marine or inland) each policy—25 cents.

Lease—Where the rent is \$300 or less—50 cents; where the rent exceeds \$300, for each additional \$200 or fractional part in excess of \$300—50 cents.

Mortgage, or any personal bond given as security for the payment of any definite sum of money exceeding \$100 and not exceeding \$500—50 cents; exceeding \$500 and not exceeding \$1000—\$1; exceeding \$1000 and not exceeding \$2,500—\$2; exceeding \$2,500 and not exceeding \$5,000—\$5; exceeding \$5,000 and not exceeding \$10,000—\$10; exceeding \$10,000 and not exceeding \$20,000—\$20; for every additional \$10,000 or fractional part in excess of \$20,000—\$20.

Passage tickets for foreign ports not exceeding \$30—50 cents; exceeding \$30—\$1.

Power of Attorney for sale of stock, &c.—25 cents; or proxy for voting—10 cents; to collect rents—25 cents; to sell real estate—\$1.

Probate of Will or Letters of Administration where the estate does not exceed the value of \$2000—\$1; exceeding \$2000, for every additional \$1000, or fractional part in excess of \$2000—50 cents.

Receipts for the payment of any sum of money, or for the payment of any debt due, not being for satisfaction of any mortgage or judgment, or decree of a court, and a receipt for the delivery of any property—2 cents.

Warehouse receipts for any goods, merchandise stored, &c.—25 cents.

Legal documents, writ, or other original process, by which any suit is commenced in any court of record, either law or equity—50 cents.

Medicines, &c., retail price not exceeding 25 cents—1 cent; exceeding 25 cents and not exceeding 50 cents—2 cents; exceeding 50 cents and not exceeding 75 cents—3 cents; exceeding 75 cents and not exceeding \$1—4 cents; exceeding \$1, for each fifty cents, or fractional part above \$1—2 cents.

Perfumery and cosmetics—same as above.

Friction Matches, where the retail price of a package, containing 144 matches or less, shall not exceed 5 cents—1 cent; where the price exceeds 5 cents, for each additional 5 cents or fraction—1 cent.

Photographs, ambrotypes, daguerotypes, &c., on each picture, when the retail price shall not exceed 25 cents—2 cents; exceeding 25 cents and not exceeding 50 cents—3 cents; exceeding 50 cents and not exceeding \$1—5 cents; exceeding \$1, for each additional dollar or fraction—5 cents.

Playing cards, value not over 18

cents per pack—2 cents; exceeding 18 cents and not exceeding 25 cents—3 cents; exceeding 25 cents and not exceeding 50 cents—5 cents; exceeding 50 cents and not exceeding \$1—10 cents; exceeding \$1, for each additional 50 cents in excess of \$1—5 cents.

The following are some of the Taxes imposed by the bill:

TAXES.

Income tax, over \$600 and not exceeding \$5000—five per cent., over \$5000 and not exceeding \$10,000—7 1/2 per cent.; over ten thousand dollars—ten per cent.

Slaughtered cattle and calves exceeding three months old, for sale—20 cents per head; under 3 months—5 cents; swine, when the number exceeds twenty in a year, per head—20 cents; sheep and lambs—5 cents.

Railroads, steamboats, ferryboats and bridges, on gross receipts—5 per cent.

Express companies, on gross receipts—3 per cent.

Insurance companies, on gross receipts—1 per cent.

Telegraph companies, on gross receipts—5 per cent.

Banks, on the average amount of deposits of money, subject to payment by check or draft, each half year—1 1/2 per cent.; on circulation above 90 per cent., 2 per cent.; on circulation less than 90 per cent., 1 per cent.; on capital, 1/2 of 1 per cent.

Lotteries—On gross receipts, 2 per cent.

Advertisements—3 per cent.

Theatres, operas, circuses and museums, on gross receipts, 1 per cent.

Cigars—three to forty dollars per 1000, according to valuation.

Tobacco—manufactured, 15 to 35 per cent. per pound, according to kind.

Skins—rough, 5 per cent.; finished, 3 per cent.

Stone and Slate, dressed for building, 3 per cent.

Spirits—first proof, from July 1, 1864, \$1.50 per gallon; from Feb. 1, 1865, \$2 per gallon.

Manufacturers of cotton, wool, silk, worsted, flax, hemp, jute, india rubber, gutta percha, wood, willow, glass, pottery ware, leather, paper, iron, steel, lead, tin, copper, zinc, brass, gold, silver, horn, ivory, bone, bristle, wholly or in part, or of any other material not otherwise provided for, 5 per cent.

Manufactures increased in value by being polished, painted, varnished, &c., &c., on the increased value, 5 per cent.

Paper of all descriptions, including pasteboard, binders' board, and tarred paper for roofing and other purposes, 3 per cent.

Printed cards, bill heads, circulars, &c., books, magazines, pamphlets, reviews and all other similar printed publications, except newspapers, 5 per cent.

Oil—illuminating, per gallon, 20 cents; animal or vegetable not otherwise specified, 5 cents.

Molasses—5 per cent.

Sugar—per pound, 1 and 2 cents according to standard.

Cool—per ton, 3 cents.

STAMPS ON RECEIPTS.—On and after August 1, "Receipts for the pay of any sum of money, or for the payment of any debt due, exceeding twenty dollars, not being for the satisfaction of any mortgage or judgment or decree of any court, and a receipt for the delivery of any property" will require a two cent revenue stamp. As this is something new in this country, there will doubtless be some question as to which party shall pay for the stamp. The general principle seems to us to be this: If A owes B \$21, B is of course entitled to that full amount, and if A requires a certificate of its payment, A should pay the expense, namely, two cents. But circumstances alter cases, and if A patronizes B's hotel or buys shoes of C, and pays cash, B and C, to secure a continuance of A's custom, will generally put on the stamp and say nothing about it. If A, however, instead of paying cash, wants a credit of three or six months, it would be quite the thing for him to pay the stamp in return for the accommodation which he has received. The idiosyncrasies of men will of course manifest themselves in this matter, as in others. We know of a man who had an opportunity to sell an estate for \$2000, but who entertained serious thoughts for letting it go for \$2500, to save three dollars on the stamp. There will doubtless be frequent cases of "dodging" and sharp practice, but the general system among honorable men will probably be about what we have indicated above.—Exchange

As the traveller moves over the roads that wind through the hills and valleys of the Green Mountain State, one evidence which meets his eyes that he is in a Christian country is the oft recurring trough beside the road where his horse can freely drink. How is it in these hot and dusty days in this village? People come into town every day in large numbers, on business, and of course we wish them to come—but so far as our knowledge extends, there is no public watering place for man or beast, anywhere within the limits of the corporation. This ought not to be.

There is a good deal of complaint about the insufficiency of the quantity of water that comes into the village. Of this we are not prepared to speak, further than to say, that if during this dry and dusty time all the principal streets could be sprinkled every day, and two or three times a day, it would greatly promote the comfort and we believe also the health of the inhabitants. It is manifest, however, that water is not at present to be had in sufficient quantities for such a purpose.

But we intended only to call attention to the subject. We are satisfied that whatever can be shown to be required by the wants, the comfort or the safety of the people will be cheerfully done at the proper time.—Rutland Herald.

Mr. Fessenden's Earnest Appeal.

Secretary Fessenden, under authority of an act of Congress of June last to issue an amount not exceeding \$200,000,000 in Treasury notes, &c., has given notice that subscriptions will be received by the Treasurer of the United States, the several Assistant Treasurers and designated depositories, and by the National Banks designated and qualified as depositories and financial agents for Treasury notes payable three years from August 15, 1864, bearing interest at the rate of seven and three-tenths per cent. per annum with semi-annual coupons attached, payable in lawful money. These notes will be convertible at the option of the holder, at maturity, into six per cent. gold bearing bonds, redeemable after five and payable twenty years from August 15, 1867. The notes will be issued in denominations of fifty, one hundred, five hundred, one thousand, and five thousand dollars, and in blank, or payable to order, as may be directed by the subscribers. All subscriptions must be for fifty dollars or some multiple of fifty dollars. Interest will be allowed to August 15 on all deposits made prior to that date and paid by the department on receipt of these original certificates. As the notes draw interest from August 15, persons making deposits subsequent to that date must pay the interest accrued from the date of the note to the date of the deposit. Parties depositing twenty-five thousand dollars and upwards for these notes at any one time will be allowed a commission of one quarter of one per cent, which will be paid by the Treasury Department upon the receipt of a bill for the amount certified to by the officer with whom the deposit was made. No deductions for commissions must be made from the deposit.

The different National Banks in the State and country will receive subscriptions for the new 7-3-10 Treasury notes.

Accompanying the official advertisement in a circular form is Secretary Fessenden's appeal to the people of the United States in which he says:

It still remains for a patriotic people to furnish the needed supply. The brave men who are fighting our battles by sea and land must be fed and clothed. Munitions of war of all kinds must be furnished, or the war must end in defeat and disgrace. This is not the time for any lover of his country to inquire into the state of the money market, or ask whether he can so invest his surplus capital as to yield him a larger return. No return and no profit can be desirable if followed by national dissolution or national disgrace. Present profit thus required is but the precursor of ruin and of speedy destruction. No investment can be so surely profitable as that which tends to ensure the national existence. I am encouraged in the belief that by the recent legislation of Congress our finances may soon be placed on a sounder and more stable footing. The present deplorable condition of the currency is inappreciable, in a great degree, to disturbances arising from the withdrawal of necessary checks often inevitable in time of war, when the expenditures must largely exceed any possible supply of coin. The opportunities thus presented to acquire sudden wealth have led to vicious speculation, a consequent increase of prices and violent fluctuations.

The remedy is to be found only in the necessity which begets the war. Hitherto we have felt the need of more extensive and vigorous taxation. Severe comment has been made upon what seemed to many an undue familiarity and tardiness of action on the part of Congress in this regard. I deem it but just to say that very great misapprehension has existed, and perhaps still exists, upon this point. Legislators, like all others, have much to learn in a new condition of affairs. An entirely new system was to be devised, and that system must necessarily be the growth of time and experience. It is not strange that the first efforts should have proved imperfect and inadequate. To lay heavy burdens on a great and patriotic people in such a manner as to be equal, and so as to occasion the least amount of suffering or annoyance, requires time and caution, and vast labor; and with all these, experience is needed to test the value of the system and correct its errors. Such has been the work that Congress was called upon to perform. I am happy to say that daily results are proving the Internal Revenue act to exceed in efficiency the most sanguine expectations of its authors. For the month of June, 1863, it yielded about four and a half millions of dollars, while the corresponding month of this year returned about fifteen millions under the same law. Under the new law, which went into operation on the first day of the present month, the Treasury frequently receives one million in a day. As time and experience enable the officers employed in collecting the revenue to enforce the strength of the provisions of the new law, I trust that a million per day will be found the rule, and not the exception. Still, much space is undoubtedly left for improvement in the law and in its administration. As a greater amount of necessary information is acquired the proper sources of revenue and the most effective mode of obtaining it are best developed in the execution of the existing laws; and I have caused measures to be initiated, which, it is believed, enable Congress so to improve and enlarge the system as, when taken in connection with the revenue from customs and other sources, to afford an ample and secure basis for the national credit. Only on such a basis, and in a steady and vigorous restraint upon the currency can a remedy be found for existing evils. Such a restraint can only be exercised when the government is furnished with means to provide for its necessities. But without the aid of a patriotic people the arm of the government is powerless.

for this or any other desirable end. The denomination of the notes proposed to be issued, ranging from fifty to five thousand dollars, place these securities within the reach of all who are disposed to aid their country. For their redemption the fifth and honorably pledged. A successful issue to this contest, now believed to be near at hand, will largely enhance their value to the holders; and peace once restored, all burdens can be lightly borne. He who selfishly withholds his aid in the hope of turning his available means to greater immediate profit is speculating upon his country's misfortunes, and may find what seems to be present gain leads to future loss. I appeal, therefore, with confidence to a loyal and patriotic people, and invoke the efforts of all who love their country, and desire for it a glorious future, to aid their government in sustaining its credit, and placing that credit upon a stable foundation."

W. F. FESSENDEN,

Secretary of the Treasury.

A VETO.—The New Hampshire Legislature passed a bill enabling those holding the Sullivan railroad to sell it, and Gov. Gilmore vetoed the bill. He gave several reasons for the veto, but we guess none of them was so potent with him as one he did not give. The Sullivan road is now run, under a lease, by the same parties who run the Vermont Central, and they were the ones who would have purchased it under the sale contemplated in the bill. Gov. Gilmore is President and manager of the road between Concord and Boston. If the Central should get permanent possession of the Sullivan it would give them a Boston connection, via Bellows Falls, independent of Gilmore's line, and that he does not mean to permit if he can prevent it. He does not feel very friendly toward the Vermont Central management, and will thwart it wherever he can.—Montpelier Argus.

REBEL PRISON IN MACON, GEORGIA.—The Washington Chronicle has received a letter from a gallant officer now confined in the military prison, Macon, Ga., from which we make the following extract:

"Our bread ration and rice are not as good or as large as Libby's with boxes to assist us, but we receive meat. Without money many must suffer. Our only hope is in the 'exchange,' which if it comes out, the government will be held responsible by many. Nine tenths of the officers were captured in the front. Let that class be relieved, if the government desires to punish the cowards by imprisonment. We are encamped in a grove through which a stream runs, affording all the water needed. The protection from the cold night air and dew is not good and I feel the effects of the change sensitively. Another eight months down here will strike my name from the rolls, and many others also. I am almost naked—no hat, coat or drawers; pants seamless, and boots on the last tour of duty. There are plenty of Lieutenants who can get paroled from Lookout to exchange for me if the effort were only made. I am not well."

WAR NEWS.

Our advices from General Grant's army are of the most interesting and exciting nature. It appears that the movement across the James river by a portion of our forces was only a feint, which had the effect to cause the enemy to draw off a considerable number of his troops from Petersburg to the side of Richmond supposed to be threatened. On Thursday and Friday, after the successful fighting already detailed, and a cavalry battle, in which Gregg's division were engaged and finally routed the enemy, our forces recrossed the river. On Saturday morning, at half-past four o'clock, the mine in front of Potter's division of the Ninth corps was exploded, with tremendous effect, destroying one of the enemy's forts and killing a large number of their men. A very heavy fire of artillery was at once opened along our lines on the rebels, while the army, which had been in the meantime formed, was pushed forward, the 1st division of the Ninth corps forming the advance.

Much fight was occasioned in Pennsylvania on Saturday, by the news that the rebels had crossed the Potomac and were moving up in the old track from Hagerstown towards Chambersburg and Harrisburg. A small force of militia was sent out to meet them, but they were soon overpowered and the rebels, who appear to have numbered about 800, marched into the town. They demanded of the authorities a heavy sum of money, and as it was not paid them they set fire to many of the buildings, and a strong breeze prevailing, a great part of the town was destroyed. Having done the mischief, they were finally frightened away by the approach of Gen. Averill's force. It does not appear that any considerable body of the rebels have crossed the Potomac, or that anything more than plunder was the object of this movement. In fact General Lee seems to have just now work for all the men he can raise at Petersburg and Richmond. All was quiet at Harper's Ferry and the telegraph line has been repaired. Chambersburg, which has been twice occupied by the rebels in former incursions, is only forty-five miles from Harrisburg, the capital of the State, and has about 3500 inhabitants. The distress of the citizens, the greater part of whom have suffered by fire or robbery, is described as being very great; the ounce of prevention not having been forerunning, the pound of cure is on its way down from Harrisburg.

BALTIMORE, July 31.—We have the glorious news from Gen. Grant's army by the Old Point boat, that the siege of Petersburg has had an auspicious commencement.

The news received this morning is as follows:—

"The siege of Petersburg opened in earnest this (Saturday) morning, and at daylight we blew up one of the principal rebel batteries, consisting of 12 guns, and had carried three tiers of earthworks of the rebels before the mail steamer left City Point this (Saturday) morning."

A late dispatch just received says:—"The assault commenced at 4 o'clock on Saturday morning by a terrible explosion, which completely destroyed one of the enemy's principal forts in front of Petersburg, containing 12 guns. This was rendered a mass of ruins. Our artillery opened with one simultaneous and continuous roar along the whole line."

At 10 o'clock we had captured two outer earthworks and also the first line of rebel entrenchments. The battle continued to progress with the greatest fury."

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, July 30, 10 a. m.

The great event so long anticipated, the explosion of the mine under the rebel fort in front of the 9th army corps, came off this morning at 4 o'clock. Picket firing was up all night, and in fact, at the time the match was applied, the skirmishes were still engaged on both sides. A mass of dirt were thrown up to over 300 feet in the air, resembling an immense fountain of earth more than anything else.

The 9th army corps at once charged the works, driving the rebels to the second line of entrenchments, and giving a number of prisoners, among whom were dug out of the dirt the remains of a regiment of the 1st South Carolina, that only about a dozen of their men remained—a South Carolina one—men.

As soon as the explosion took place, 120 guns immediately opened on the front, while musketry blazed in a continuous line of fire along the top of the 9th and 5th corps. The smoke will long be remembered by those who witnessed it.

The smoke from the guns soon secured the view, and the first particulars of our success were gleamed from those who came in with prisoners. Prisoners say we completely surprised those in their front, they were mostly asleep at the time. The officers also state that there were no guns in the fortifications, which, of course, were buried far out of range. One of